



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 20, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: September 19, 2004  
CWP WA-CW3804

## Rains Continued to Dampen Harvests Pumpkin Vines Hurt by Rain

### Field Crops

Rains continued to deter potato, corn silage, and cereal harvests throughout the state. Some counties reported concern over tuber rot in unharvested potatoes while other were worried about quality problems in cereals and corn silage. Planting of fall wheat was slowed by rains in some counties. Some of the winter wheat that had emerged in Douglas County suffered wind damage. Pasture conditions continued to improve throughout most of the state.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 9% poor, 34% fair, and 55% good. Livestock water supply was still a problem for some producers in Douglas and Chelan Counties due to area lakes being dry earlier this year.

### Fruits and Vegetables

U-Pick pumpkin growers in Thurston County reported fungus diseases on the majority of vine foliage due to the wet conditions. Kitsap County squash and pumpkin crop was reported as being excellent. Sweet corn harvest continued but was slowly winding down in some areas. Apple harvest continued throughout the state with Golden, Gala, and Jonagolds being harvested. Franklin County reported that their apple crop looked particularly strong due to less hail and freeze damage this year.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.5
Last Week	5.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	16	69	15
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	46	33	0
Subsoil	2	31	66	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	49	38	0
Irrigation Water	0	6	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	0	4	87	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	99	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	48	28	52	55
Winter Wheat Emerged	24	13	17	26
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	60	46	50	48
Corn Silage Harvested	34	20	36	32
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	50	41	62	37
Dry Peas Harvested	100	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	98	97	99

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	11	84	3
Corn	0	0	4	94	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	10	87	3

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** A week of unseasonably heavy rainfall left the entire county in a very soggy condition. The heavy rainfall resulted in far less than ideal harvest conditions for sweet corn. Huge tractors were brought in to help move harvest equipment through the muddy fields. About 50 percent of this year's crop was harvested. Fortunately, the rain did not affect quality or reduce yields. The majority of this year's crop was of very good (Grade A) quality with some growers reporting record breaking yields of ten tons to the acre. Christmas tree growers continued to report strong demand for both Noble and Grand fir from wholesale buyers. Spring flower bulb growers were reportedly two weeks behind in planting due to the wet soil conditions. The saturated soils also delayed potato harvest. There was no lack of moisture, with many fields sporting temporary lakes from the heavy rainfall. The excessive rain caused fall webworm tents to look like gigantic sponges. Home gardeners kept busy mowing lawns which grew at a record breaking pace. This will be a year of minimal fall color as the majority of native deciduous tree foliage have been infected with fungus diseases which result in early senescence.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Cool, wet weather continued throughout the week. Farmers in low lying areas indicated that if it continues to rain, the corn will become very difficult to harvest. Pastures continued to green up.

**Kitsap:** Cooler temperatures throughout the region helped fall vegetable production. The squash and pumpkin crop was excellent. Much of the fall produce was available at all eight of Kitsap County's Farmer's Markets.

**Pierce/South King:** It was a wet week in the South Puget Sound area, with rain exceeding the norm. Local farmers indicated that the cool weather set crop production back a couple of weeks. Corn harvest could be later this year. There were no unusual situations or crop damage due to a weather event to report.

**Skagit:** Rain that fell during the week kept farm equipment idle and most harvest and fall planting operations at a stand still. Early apple varieties continued to be hand picked, with Jonagold apple harvest predicted to begin in less than two weeks. Potato growers were concerned about potential tuber rot in unharvested produce.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather pattern was cooler and wetter than normal. Driving through the county was a colorful adventure with the leaves turning color and the bright orange pumpkins and sunflowers in the fields. Farmers with corn mazes and U-Pick pumpkin fields were busy getting ready to entertain their customers. Heavy rain hindered efforts to complete corn silage harvest. Some dairies completed a fifth grass silage cutting. Sweet corn quality and yield was excellent.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably heavy rainfall throughout the week resulted in soggy conditions all over the rural landscape. Turfgrass growers were unable to mow fields due to the super-saturated fields. Some fields had temporary lakes as more rain fell than the soil could absorb. Forest tree seedling nurseries expressed concern that the rainfall during the past several weeks, combined with warm temperatures, were preventing seedlings from transitioning into dormancy. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported fungus diseases on the majority of vine foliage. Christmas tree growers finished up shearing Douglas fir and began to remove leader stakes from Noble fir. Home gardeners reported tomatoes and other vegetable plant foliage in various stages of deterioration due to the heavy, persistent rainfall. The Chehalis river and other major streams had unseasonably high stream flow for this time of year. Home gardeners reported that it has been so wet that even the slugs were carrying umbrellas!

**Whatcom:** Corn silage and potato harvest was halted for three days due to rain. Mud raised havoc with potato diggers, even though operators worked on higher ground. Pastures greened up.

## Central

**Benton:** Grapes, apples, and the last of summer vegetables were being harvested.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Additional showers brought 0.01 to 0.5 inches of rain to the county. Some wheat was planted and some wheat had to be replanted. The wheat that had come up looked really good.

**Grant:** Scattered rain showers delayed bean and onion harvest. Full season processing potato harvest got well underway. Some late blight was present. Growers were waiting for better weather to continue the fourth cutting of alfalfa.

**Kittitas:** Timothy hay growers establishing new stands this fall were mostly done seeding. The second cutting of timothy hay was wet, and yields were low. Sweet corn harvest was finishing up, with the majority of fields harvested in the past two weeks. Cattle producers were enjoying excellent fall growth on pastures.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The second cutting of timothy hay and the third cutting of alfalfa finished up. Most hay was rained on at least once. Range and pasture conditions were good due to the recent rain. Apple harvest was in the early stages. Sweet corn harvest was complete with average yields.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from normal to 10 degrees below normal, with 0.14 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Planting neared completion with about 60 percent or more of the total crop emerged.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain showers improved seeding conditions for planting winter wheat. Thunderstorms caused some localized flooding and erosion in a few areas. Other areas fell well short on moisture. There were still a few farmers that had not completed the 2004 wheat crop harvest because of the rain. The rain will benefit fall grazing on rangeland.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Due to the recent precipitation, some producer's winter wheat may have to be replanted. They were monitoring the situation and will soon know if replanting is necessary. Some of the winter wheat that had emerged suffered wind damage. Recent moisture quickly dried up because of the wind. Livestock water supply was still a problem for some producers because area lakes in the northern part of the county were dry this year. Golden apple harvest was underway, and growers were finishing up with Gala and Jonagold apples. There was some hail damage to the crop, but most growers were able to thin it off. Recent cold weather, if continued, could push maturity and cause some damage to later varieties (Red Delicious, Pink Lady, and Braeburn). The labor supply for picking fruit is short this year. Pear harvest was nearly completed.

**Franklin:** Cooler and lower than normal temperatures prevailed throughout the week, with some light shower activity. Some hay was rained on, and with the cooler temperatures and little wind, it will take longer to put up this year. Otherwise, crop conditions were good and generally in the normal production pattern. The apple crop seemed particularly strong this year, with fewer hail and freeze damage than the past few years. Harvest was underway for a number of apple varieties.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat planting progressed throughout the county.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Harvest was not completed because of constant rain. Reports of 0.75-1.5 inches of rain helped fall planting and perennial crop growth. A fair amount of fall work was completed, but very little planting was done because of muddy conditions. Those with crops out will have additional quality problems after the long delay in harvest. Most work was plowing and subsoiling.

**Stevens:** Rain showers continued to soak the soil profile. Some grain fields remained unharvested. Hay producers were not able to harvest the third cutting. Pastures were in better shape than they have been for many years.

**Walla Walla:** Some scattered showers were received during the week. Fall work was in full swing.

**Whitman:** Farmers were either making preparations for seeding or beginning seeding. Scattered showers throughout the region brought welcomed moisture. Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cool, rainy conditions prevailed throughout the week, preventing the completion of the small amount of acreage left to harvest. Producers tried to turn their attention to seed bed preparation and seeding operations for the 2005 winter wheat crop. Ongoing rain showers kept most producers out of the fields, with only the far western part of the county able to get any winter wheat seeded. The rain was welcomed, but many producers were ready to work on getting the new crop in the ground.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 20, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	47	62	54	-4	31	-21	0	-7	2.05	1.59	6	3.41	2.27	299	13
Everett	49	63	56	-3	45	-11	0	-7	1.02	0.52	7	1.91	0.62	148	12
Hoquiam	49	65	57	-4	51	-20	0	-14	3.19	2.40	7	3.93	2.06	210	14
Kelso	45	68	58	-3	59	-14	3	-14	0.79	0.23	3	1.36	-0.07	95	7
Olympia	45	67	56	-2	47	-6	0	-7	2.46	1.92	7	3.75	2.42	282	13
Sea-Tac	49	65	57	-4	50	-23	0	-15	0.98	0.53	7	2.67	1.54	236	12
Shelton	48	67	56	-5	46	-23	0	-15	2.40	1.75	7	3.44	1.90	223	12
Tacoma	48	66	57	-3	50	-16	0	-11	1.41	0.95	7	2.55	1.37	216	13
Vancouver	49	70	60	-1	70	1	10	-5	1.48	0.99	6	1.67	0.44	136	10
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	36	68	55	-3	40	-21	0	-16	0.31	0.17	5	0.41	0.04	111	8
Stampede Pass	38	53	45	-4	0	-18	0	0	3.73	2.92	7	6.81	4.80	339	14
Wenatchee	42	70	56	-8	42	-50	0	-32	0.21	0.14	5	0.31	0.03	111	7
Yakima AP	32	75	55	-6	37	-38	2	-21	0.14	0.07	2	0.15	-0.13	54	3
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	38	69	55	-2	36	-15	0	-12	1.22	0.94	6	1.59	0.83	209	8
Deer Park	33	64	51	-8	17	-46	0	-18	0.52	0.31	6	1.33	0.76	233	10
Spokane AP	38	64	53	-6	23	-40	0	-19	0.23	0.09	4	0.40	-0.10	80	6
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	40	72	56	-8	46	-53	2	-36	0.07	-0.06	3	0.18	-0.07	72	4
Moses Lake	37	72	57	-7	54	-45	3	-35	0.09	-0.04	2	0.12	-0.13	48	3
Quincy	38	71	56	-6	45	-37	0	-27	0.06	-0.02	1	0.06	-0.26	19	1
Ritzville	38	68	53	-7	26	-44	0	-20	0.32	0.18	3	0.40	0.05	114	5
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	38	76	58	-10	60	-62	6	-50	0.20	0.13	3	0.20	-0.03	87	3
Pasco	37	78	62	-3	83	-15	20	-18	0.16	0.09	3	0.16	-0.08	67	3
Pullman	41	65	54	-4	31	-28	0	-16	0.34	0.13	5	0.34	-0.23	60	5
Whitman Miss.	36	74	60	-1	72	-5	12	-13	0.24	0.10	3	0.25	-0.13	66	4
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	63	52	-8	22	-49	0	-21	1.21	0.93	5	1.64	0.88	216	8
Lewiston ID	45	72	60	-4	72	-25	6	-33	0.28	0.13	5	0.31	-0.20	61	7

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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